

The Brooklyn Paper

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CAMELOT IN THE SLOPE



Them's fightin' words

Temper flared outside a movie theater in Jenkintown, Pa., Tuesday night, where the film "Stolen Honor," a documentary criticizing Sen. John Kerry's anti-war activities in the 1970s, had been scheduled. Formal debating techniques appear not to have sufficed for Dan Sweeney (left), a supporter of President Bush, and Bill Perry, a Kerry supporter. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported the film's screening was cancelled. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Firestorm over subway closings



A Queen holds Court

Queen Noor of Jordan, center, talks with Manal Kawas, a volunteer at the Arab-American Family Support Center on Court Street in Cobble Hill on Oct. 14. The queen's visit was planned "to show support for New York's Arab immigrant community" in the aftermath of 9-11.

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

An announcement that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will engage in a second round of token booth closings set off a firestorm in Brooklyn this week, where more than a quarter of the closings are expected. Elected officials and transit union executives say that of 164 token booths expected to close by May, 33 are in Brooklyn and most are located in downtown neighborhoods that record the borough's largest subway ridership. The announcement, which comes less than a year after the MTA closed 62 booths, threatens safety and the jobs of an estimated 600 station agent jobs, local elected officials say.

"Not a single one of these booths should be closed," said Even Thies, a spokesman for Councilman David Yassky, whose Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Brooklyn district will be among the hardest hit. "The MTA is an atrociously run agency that will not make its finances public so we can't possibly judge if this is a necessary thing to do or not. All I know is that the ticket prices have gone up and the services have deteriorated."

Thies said that among nearly a dozen stations in Yassky's district to be threatened with

See SUBWAY on page 16

Report: Kennedy eyeing home here

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Caroline Kennedy is reported to be preparing to move her family from Park Avenue to Park Slope.

A spokesperson at husband Edwin Schlossberg's interior design firm would not confirm whether he, the 43-year-old Kennedy and their three teenage children Rose, Tatiana and Jack were moving to Brownstone Brooklyn, but an assistant at the Fund for Public Schools, where Kennedy works, sounded intrigued.

"It's not our policy to talk about her personal life," said Elizabeth Berenger, "but we've heard the reports, and I can understand your interest."

Newsday published an unconfirmed story on the Kennedy move in its Wednesday edition.

Borough President Marty Markowitz was overjoyed at the possibility of Park Slope being home to the only surviving child of President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy.

"Brooklyn, home to everyone from everywhere, is proud to be the new home of the Kennedys," he told The Brooklyn Papers, and then recited what could become the neighborhood's slogan, "Park Slope: It ain't Cape Cod, but it's starting to look a lot like Camelot."

The neighborhood has seen an influx of homebuyers from Manhattan. Peter Noon, vice president for the Corcoran Group, told

See KENNEDY on page 16



Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and daughter attend Real Simple magazine's Get Organized New York benefit for the Fund For Public Schools, in Manhattan Wednesday.



Hotel from Hell

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

A hotel can be the perfect setting for a spooky fright-fest (anyone seen "The Shining"?), and the New York City College of Technology is extending a ghoulish invitation to the public to check into its own "Haunted Hotel" beginning Thursday, Oct. 28 (from noon to 8 pm) at the Younites Theatre (186 Jay St. at Tillary Street) in Downtown Brooklyn.

This is the fifth year that the "hotel" has been resurrected. Last year, the animatronic pirate, talking skeletons and other ghoulish residents even attracted a visit from Borough President Marty Markowitz (pictured), who bravely laughed in the face of a global clearly thinking for blood.

This year's "Haunted Hotel" will have an up-

side down room, animated sitting room, graveyard, dumbwaiter "accident," living portrait, bloody bathroom and basement coffin.

If at the end of your hotel stay you've become embarrassed by your terrified exclamations (and soiled underwear), you can take comfort that you're not alone. An exit video will allow you to watch — and mock — other frightened patrons still inside the hotel.

The "Haunted Hotel" will also be open Oct. 29, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Oct. 30, from 4 to 9 pm. Unlike many only slightly less scary hotels, the rates here are very affordable: admission is \$2, \$1 for children 12 and younger. For more information, call (718) 260-5588.

GO BEANS ON PAGE 7

CB2 committees clash with chair over arena plan

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 committee members revolted against the board's chairwoman in two votes this week that called for the board to remove itself from negotiations with Forest City Ratner on a local benefits agreement for the planned Atlantic Yards project.

The board members found out in the past two weeks — first from a report pub-



lished in The Brooklyn Papers and then in an announcement by CB2 Chairwoman Shirley McRae at the full board meeting last Wednesday — that for the past 10 weeks McRae and District Manager Robert Perris have been involved in closed-door negotiations with Forest City

Ratner officials and members of several community groups that are in favor of the plan to build a basketball arena, three office skyscrapers and 4,500 apartments in Prospect Heights east of the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

Chairpersons and district managers

from CB6 and CB8 have also been involved in the negotiations for a so-called community benefits agreement intended to provide for local and minority and women hiring.

Saying she sought suggestions and input from the full board after word of the dealings broke, McRae handed out to committee chairs at last week's meeting a sparse, draft outline of topics being discussed for inclusion in such a community agreement. But committee members,

faced with the non-specific outline and an upcoming deadline for the panels to render a recommendation, were confused.

Although District Manager Robert Perris advised them not to worry about, as he put it, "Ratner's schedule," which aims to have a completed CBA by Nov. 1, Perris said comments nevertheless had to be filed at the CB2 offices by Oct. 25, and would be presented at the Nov. 10 monthly board meeting.

Confused, two of the three committees

decided that the draft was too fuzzy to warrant any comment.

And despite clarifying statements issued by McRae and Perris, committee members were concerned, in meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, that participation might connote full involvement.

"The discussion is not a referendum on the proposed project itself," Perris told members of the Traffic-Transportation committee Tuesday. "Work on a CBA is

See ARENA CLASH on page 15

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LIU heralds athletics center, to open in '05

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Long Island University celebrated the construction of its new Athletics, Recreation and Wellness center — scheduled to be open in time for the first night of the NCAA Division I basketball team's season in Fall 2005 — with a beam-signing ceremony Oct. 15 on its Downtown Brooklyn campus.

The event was ushered in by Provost Gale Stevens Haynes, and attended by Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, state Sen. Carl Andrews, City Council members David Yasky and Letitia James, Borough President Marty Markowitz and a representative for Rep. Edolphus Towns, who provided some budgetary support for the facility.

"You have no idea how exciting it is to see the health center being built," said Joanne Hyppolite, 24, president of LIU's Student Government Association.

The 100,000-square-foot facility, which will include a 25-yard swimming pool, state-of-the-art weight room, tennis courts, a track and a nearly 3,000-seat arena for the school's Division I teams, is a \$40 million project that has had administrators working full-force over the past 36 months.

Aside from being available to students of LIU, the school is also offering low-cost memberships to the gym to residents in the surrounding neighborhoods.

But the crowds that gathered in puffy winter coats and scarves on the brisk Friday were mostly students, who formed a circle around the podium set up in LIU's outdoor corridor near the entrance between DeKalb Avenue and Willoughby Street, and listened to speakers lauding the new fitness complex.

After breaking ground in late summer and laying the foundation, the construction is now ready to install the sup-



State Sen. Carl Andrews, City Councilwoman Letitia James and Borough President Marty Markowitz sign a crossbeam of the new LIU athletic center in Downtown Brooklyn.

port beams.

"This is another milestone in Brooklyn's future," said Markowitz. "This project is one that benefits the students and all of Brooklyn. I'm hoping that LIU will now be changing its name from LIU to 'Brooklyn-Suffolk University' with its headquarters in Brooklyn," he said.

Three of the silver-painted beams were laid out on a platform at the ceremony, and students eyed them as they milled around a podium where several of the elected officials spoke. Portable cameras flashed, and friends found each other in the crowd and squeezed each other's arms with anticipation for the moment of the signing.

Haynes introduced James as one of the last speakers.

"She calls our athletic center 'her arena,'" said Haynes, referring to James' outspoken dissent against the development, a few blocks away, of a 19,000-seat basketball arena to house the Nets in her Prospect Heights district.

"Let it be known that this is the type of arena I support!" howled James when she got to the podium, looking over her shoulder and gesturing in the direction where cranes were poised.

"As we all know the health conditions in our community are pretty scary," the councilwoman said, and rattled off a list of prevailing problems for Brooklynites: obesity, asthma, smoking, teen pregnancy, AIDS.

"It's important that we all talk about sex, that we all talk about health status, that we all

talk about the issues our community faces," she said.

When finally the presentations were done, and Markowitz, James and Andrews were ushered over to the construction dolly on which the beams were secured, a crush of students fanned behind them and swarmed up on the ramp behind them.

While James and Markowitz patiently smiled for the assault of camera flashbulbs, students hastily grabbed from the basket of markers that had been set out on a folding table, and scrawled their names on the posts.

"I was surprised at how excited everyone was!" exclaimed LIU spokeswoman Peg Byron, after the event.

Though the politicians See **LIU GYM** on page 16

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Burglar wakes her up, flees down President

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

A woman was roused from her sleep on Oct. 14 at 4:25 a.m. by rustling sounds coming from her living room. She then discovered her apartment, on President Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, had been robbed.

When she entered the living room, the victim noticed a window and screen had been opened. She looked outside and saw a man wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt fleeing from the building westbound on President Street towards Eighth Avenue.

Old Id theft

A Park Slope woman discovered she was the victim of criminal impersonation when she received a bill on Oct. 12 for a mobile phone account that she had never purchased.

The woman, 29, contacted the precinct when she opened the bill and found that the account had been started in March of 1998, and revealed a current outstanding balance of \$900.

Daylight attack

A 43-year-old man was assaulted and mugged on the northwest corner of 10th Street and Third Avenue on Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Two men approached the victim from behind and, before he knew it, had twisted both his arms behind his back. They then threw him to the ground.

"Let me holla at you," said one of the attackers.

One of the men then reached into his pocket and took \$23 in cash. Both muggers fled westbound on Ninth Street.

Loses, finds car

A Park Slope man left his house on Union Street and Sixth Avenue on Oct. 14 at 10:30 p.m. only to discover that his silver 1995 Chrysler, which was parked half a block from his apartment, had been stolen.

Fortunately, it was recovered soon after, but unfortunately, it had been damaged.

78 PCT. BLOTTER

nately, it had been wrecked by the thief and brought to a tow yard.

Warehouse sale

On Ninth Street, between Smith Street and Second Avenue, a warehouse for food shipping was robbed sometime between Oct. 14 at 6:45 p.m. and 9:30 the next morning.

A 19-year-old employee of the warehouse came in the next day and found that two metal boxes that had been used to store miscellaneous cash and checks had been stolen, but it was unclear how burglars got in.

No damage had been done to the doors or roof, and the building, it was presumed, had been locked.

The company was robbed of \$50,500 worth of checks and cash.

Giant thief

Several tenants were robbed of their bicycles when an early-bird burglar hit an apartment building on President Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 6:55 a.m. on Oct. 16.

The bikes were tucked away in the lobby of the building, which was left unlocked, and accessible to the public.

A tenant in the building woke up, and noticed the thief riding her 21-speed Giant mountain bike.

Also missing was a 5200 Giant 24-speed carbon frame bike, worth \$3,700, a black bicycle, and a children's Giant bicycle.

Library crook

A 35-year-old woman was studying at the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza when she fell victim to the oldest trick in the book... literally.

Though the woman, who was working on an essay throughout the day at the library, had noticed a man in a waist-length black jacket had been lingering around on Oct. 16. She was too focused on her work to catch him in the act when he dropped a book near her purse at her feet at 4:30 p.m.

When he picked it up, he took her wallet with it, a surveillance camera tape revealed.

Though the predator fled the library in an unknown direction, when police came to conduct their canvass, the wallet was found with all the property that had been inside of it, except for a Macy's credit card.

11th St. mug

A 54-year-old Park Slope woman was mugged of her purse at 3:42 a.m. on Oct. 17.

The woman told police she was walking eastbound on 11th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues when two men came up from behind her and one of them grabbed the handbag slung on her shoulder.

She noticed that the suspects ran eastbound on 11th Street towards Fifth Avenue, and she called police immediately.

The thieves made off with \$75 in cash, her checkbooks, bankcards, driver's license and airplane tickets.

Gunpoint rob

A Gowanus store was held up at gunpoint by a man who fled on a black bicycle after stealing \$300 from the cashier on duty on Oct. 14 at 2 a.m.

The bandit pulled a gun on the store clerk, and demanded, "Give me all your money."

After snatching the cash, he took off northbound on Fifth Avenue on a black mountain bike.

The crime was reported with the aide of a 48-year-old Park Slope man who was in the store trying to buy cigarettes when the holdup occurred.

He described the gun-toting thug as a black man with a mustache, about 26 years old, 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, wearing a black denim jacket and blue jeans.

Ride and grab

A 23-year-old man was trying his shoe when a bandit swooped by on a bike and lifted a mobile phone off the man's hip holster. The incident happened on Oct. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

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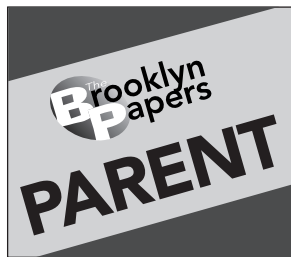
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Making the pre-K jump

Q: My 5-year-old son is in kindergarten. Most days he gets a note home saying he failed to pay attention and follow directions. We've tried disciplining him and talking to him. Nothing works. He's the only African-American child in the class, and he says he gets blamed for things he didn't do. His pre-K teacher didn't have similar complaints. — a mother

A: Notes home and spankings don't help a child make the tough transition from preschool to kindergarten.

"A note home each day does not provide enough information," says education expert Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, PhD, of Harvard University. She suggests starting with a face-to-face teacher conference, asking for specific examples to get a clearer picture of what's going on in the classroom and how to help solve the problem.

Kindergarten teachers should expect some children to take until Halloween, or even Thanksgiving to become socialized and accustomed to the more controlled regime in school.

Ultimately, parents and teachers need to work as a team, says Lawrence-Lightfoot, author of "The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn From Each Other" (Random House, 2004).

Try to come to any teacher conference with your emotions in check but with questions jotted down: Does he fall apart at a certain time of day? Do certain kids distract him? Find out what behavior is expected of the students, not just academics. Are there opportunities to move around the room? Can any adjustments be made to accommodate his learning style? Show positive interest, and leave the conference knowing how to stay in touch with the teacher.

"Don't let the teacher off the hook with statements such as, 'He doesn't behave the way the other children behave,'" says Natalie Leath, a mother. "If you cannot get a satisfactory answer, ask for a conference with the teacher, counselor and principal. I would not discipline my child further until I knew with certainty there was a reason for the teacher's remarks."

If left to fend for himself, a child struggling to make the transition into kindergarten is at risk for feeling victimized and disliking school. In addition, a parent or teacher can also become defensive around the child, Lawrence-Lightfoot says.

Not all children, particularly boys, are ready to start school at age 5, as a mother of six children found with her

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

oldest son.

She delayed his entry into kindergarten, but describes another son as "chomping at the bit to learn to read and write." "I've had many friends whose boys have had to repeat kindergarten," the mother says. "Maybe he is bored, or not ready to learn."

Several parents say the child would benefit from a more diverse classroom. Lawrence-Lightfoot — who was the only African-American child in some of her Advanced Placement classes in high school — says she can relate to the difficulty of kindergarten.

Other ideas:

- Ask to observe the class to see how well the teacher manages the students.

- Have him evaluated for an attention problem. One New Jersey mother says she received notes about her son's inattentiveness in kindergarten, but in preschool there were no indications he was having problems. In first grade, his teacher also said he didn't pay attention, follow directions or hold a pencil correctly. He was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, inattentive type.

- Work on giving the child directions to follow at home, says Jacquie McTaggart of Independence, Iowa, who has taught first grade for 42 years. Praise him when he follows through, or withhold a favorite activity if he falters. Eventually, this skill will transfer to school, she says.

Can you help?

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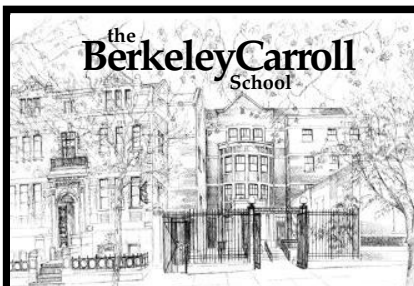
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'Elly' Garcia dies and Fort Greene feels the loss

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

When Winston Garcia lost his wife Isabel "Elly" Garcia, on Oct. 5, he simply put a sign on the front door of her Fort Greene store that read: "Close."

To neighbors, the simple sign loomed heavy from the front door of Elly's Market, a little store that seemed always open, at the very least, always welcoming, and was the quintessential mom-and-pop shop.

For Winston, the question was, could the store continue, when his 74-year-old wife, who had modeled the store since she purchased it in 1966 while he was fighting in Vietnam, was gone? He didn't need to summon the answer in his heart. The community did it for him.

Round, smiling Elly, as almost everyone knew her, was an institution in a neighborhood that saw many changes since the time she moved in on DeKalb Avenue near Clermont Avenue. She was known not only for her soft, red hair and willingness to let neighbors who came up a few cents short slide, but for her affection. "Baby," she always called customers.

"Hello baby, how you doing?" was a common greeting of hers, said David Todeschi, 38, the manager of Tillie's, a coffee shop that moved in up the block eight years ago and was welcomed by Garcia.

"We were one of the first gentrifying businesses in the area, and we always had a very good relationship with her," said Todeschi, who would often bring Elly coffee during one of her typical 8 am-to-10 pm shifts.

"She just gave us things sometimes," he said, and recalled getting everything from sandwich fixings to sugar from the store. "She was amazing."

Winston Garcia agrees, and doesn't know how he's going to cope without the woman with whom he spent 40 years of his life. He started dating Elly when they both worked at a nearby grocery store. He was 18, she was 34; both of them were from Puerto Rico and dreamed of having their own store together in the United States.

When Elly found the store, she wrote to Winston while he served in the army in Vietnam, saying she would try to buy it.

The store was her life, he said, and though the couple never had children, residents in the ever-changing neighborhood became Elly's surrogate brood.

"She was loved by everybody, no matter rich, poor, black, white. She had that attraction to people," Winston said, noting her ability to charm children. "She had something you couldn't explain — if they were crying, they would stop crying."

Both of them worked at the store, which was renovated in January and transformed from its cement-stucco facing to an original 1870s-style glass-and-polished wood storefront. Months after the renovations, they were awarded for the architectural overhaul.

"She worked until the very end," said Winston. When Elly came home on Friday night, Oct. 3, to their upstairs apartment and they said goodnight, he had no idea it would be the last time.



Flowers line the street outside Elly's Market, on the corner of Clermont and DeKalb avenues in Fort Greene, to commemorate owner Isabel "Elly" Garcia, who died this month.

"It happened while we were sleeping," he said. He woke up the next morning to find she had suffered a stroke. After tests were done at the nearby Brooklyn Hospital Center, Elly was transferred to the New York Weill-Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan.

While doctors were able to stabilize her, that night she suffered two more strokes, and went into a coma. The next day, Winston had to bid farewell to his lifelong friend and love, having her disconnected from life support.

"I took a week off to get my thoughts in place but I found out it's not easy," said Garcia. "It's very difficult to undo 40 years."

The day after Elly passed, a memorial service was held at the Madison-Piro funeral home a block away from the store. In no time, the funeral home became an overflowing gathering place for neighbors who found out about the death through word of mouth.

While Winston grieved, and tended to making sure his wife was returned safely to Puerto Rico, the neighborhood formed their own site for grieving, in front of the locked-up store.

For two weeks the number of candles, and flowers, and cards and poems accumulated, spilling in abundance across the stairs of the store, and on either side of tree pits along DeKalb Avenue. As rain poured down, the candles went out and cards got soggy. Ink ran, and ribbons drooped, but still new bouquets appeared every day.

Finally, on Wednesday, Winston decided it was time to reopen. He removed the faded cards, and placed the fresh flowers and candle vases in front of the store, away from where customers might trip on them.

"It feels so empty in here without her," he said, surveying the crowded shelves and counters around the store.

Winston knew in his heart that reopening was the right thing to do. No doubt Elly would've thought so, too.

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Dov Hikind: Swastika vandal's remorseful son turned her in

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A Bay Ridge woman who allegedly married Brooklyn and Queens with nearly 20 swastikas, spray-painted in a jealous rage on everything from synagogues to parked cars, was turned in by a

remorseful son, The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who earlier this week announced a \$5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest, said that the son, Eric Abramovich, called police on Monday afternoon, around the same time as surveillance

cameras near one of the synagogues revealed images of his mother's car.

He then called Hikind, the Borough Park legislator said, who promptly invited him to be a guest on his Saturday evening radio talk show.

The woman, Olga Abramovich, 49, a Russian Orthodox

Christian, was arrested and charged with resisting arrest, 13 counts of criminal mischief as a hate crime and 13 counts of aggravated harassment. Police sources said she admitted to painting the white swastikas on at least 14 buildings, including two in Queens.

Police said that over two evenings last weekend, Abramovich, who had recently been divorced by her Jewish husband, defaced nearly 20 buildings in Brooklyn, in a misguided attempt to inflict revenge on her ex, who police say left her for a younger Jewish woman.

According to published reports, a car in front of her ex-husband's house in Queens was also blemished, and bared references to the younger woman and the ex husband.

Published reports cited neighbors saying that Abramovich takes medication for bipolar disorder. Along with several civilian and police cars and a medical center on Kings Highway, at least 10 synagogues and Jewish centers, including the Jewish Community House, at 7802 Bay Parkway, and the Yeshiva Ohel Moshe, at 7914 Bay Parkway, were targeted. In each case, a pair of large white swastikas were spray-painted on the front entrances of the buildings.

A spokesman for the Kings County District Attorney's office said Abramovich would be arraigned following an evaluation at a psychiatric ward of the Elmhurst Hospital Center in Queens, where she was taken after her arrest on Monday. Abramovich could not be reached for comment. Hikind said that what compelled him to invite the younger Abramovich to speak on his show, which airs at 11 pm this Saturday on WMCA, 570-AM, was his remorsefulness and willingness to talk about what may have caused his mother to act out.

The 22-year-old son, an investment banker, spoke eloquently on the phone and professed love for his mother while simultaneously apologizing for her actions, said Hikind.

"Clearly this person has been in and out of institutions and for that reason I don't think this is a clear-cut instance of anti-Semitism," said Hikind. "I want to throw the book at anti-Semites. I don't like anti-Semites. But if this woman is truly a sick woman, if she is sick, we should deal with that in its own way."

Other elected officials refused to make distinctions between Abramovich and, say, a white supremacist group or a gang of teen vandals. State Sen. Carl Kruger, whose Midwood-Sheepshead Bay district was also targeted in Abramovich's attacks, said

that in order to safeguard against future hate crimes, community members should educate younger people and promote unity. When asked if the discovery that the perpetrator was, in fact, 49 made discussing the issue more complicated, Kruger refused to differentiate.

"We shouldn't take the action out of the context. A hate crime is just that — hate," said Kruger, whose district was targeted in some of the attacks.

"I think it's a word that's said, an action taken. What this lady did should not have happened. I can't determine her state of mind, but certainly it was a hateful action."

Hikind expects to raise this complicated distinction on his show this weekend, even as he maintains that the Nazi symbol brings up traumatic memories in Holocaust survivors and their families no matter what parties are involved.

"People who experience the Holocaust, when they see these swastikas, it causes pain and it brings back horrible memories," said Hikind, whose mother still bares markings on her skin from her experience as an Auschwitz survivor.

"People who went through this, when they see things like this or hear things like this, they are affected in a way that you and I can't even begin to understand."

Delay for 'papa' Norman's trial

By Jess Wislowski
The Brooklyn Papers

During a pretrial hearing last Friday, lawyers for Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr., the 53-year-old Brooklyn Democratic Party boss, fought to have grand larceny charges for misappropriation of funds reduced to an infraction of campaign law, and succeeded in delaying the trial until Jan. 10.

The extension of the trial's start from next month is to allow Norman to hire a new lead trial lawyer. It will also allow him and his wife to have their first baby, celebrate the holidays, and potentially reap the benefits of a defense fund started by supporters.

Norman is planning a change in his defense team, bringing a new chief trial lawyer in to take the place of Roger Bennet Adler, his current attorney, and the new lawyer won't be available until January, Adler told the judge in discussions outside the courtroom.

Additionally, Norman said he and his wife are expecting a child in November.

Though Norman is fighting charges in a series of trials that he misused campaign fund, and strong-armed judicial candidates into hiring vendors preferred by the county party, the focus of the pretrial hearing was on a personal check to East New York Assemblywoman Diane Gordon. Adler claimed Norman issued the \$5,000 check, which he drew on his own re-election fund, "in the heat of a campaign," Gordon, said Adler, then had her assistant pay Norman back by sending a check marked as "contribution" to his re-election committee.

Adler argued before Judge Martin Marcus that, had the grand jury seen Gordon's testimony, both the taxpayers and Norman could have been spared the forthcoming trial.

"She knew and was willing to testify that it was an advance," said Adler, but because the prosecution did not grant her immunity she didn't testify.

"In effect they got what I call a 'snapshot view of life,'" Adler argued. "We got the check, we know who got the check, we got the person who wrote the check, case closed," he said.

But prosecutor Monique Ferrell said there was "overwhelming evidence" incriminating Norman, including witnesses whose testimonies would be presented at trial.

Adler then argued that the felonious charges of grand larceny be reduced to civil charges, citing them as an unintentional infraction of campaign law.

"Did he steal from his own campaign? Can he steal from



Brooklyn Democratic boss Clarence Norman

there may actually have been a complaint that tipped off the investigation.

"I mean, somebody must have been unhappy about this," said Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer.

By the end of the hearing, no determinations were made about whether or not any or all of the addressed charges would be changed or dropped. Another pretrial hearing is scheduled for Nov. 19, where the charges that suggest bullying of judicial candidates will be heard.

his own campaign?" asked Adler.

Ferrell replied, "He does not have signatory power on the Committee to Reelect Clarence Norman," emphasizing that the committee "is not the alter-ego of the defendant."

She also pointed out that Norman's own immaculate filing record, which he's maintained since 1984, shows that such an oversight was more likely an intentional omission than an accident.

But Adler wanted more.

"Where is the evidence of criminal intent?" he asked. Ferrell pointed to Gordon's transaction books: if it were a loan, she reasoned, why wouldn't Gordon have recorded that?

District Attorney Charles Hynes argues that Norman withdrew the money from his re-election campaign for personal use, that there was no evidence in Gordon's accounting books of the check (therefore suggesting it was intentionally clandestine), and that Norman intentionally and criminally stole from his own campaign, resulting in a larceny charge, equivalent to his stealing \$5,000 from a house. Adler didn't buy it, and tried to argue that there had been no complainant, therefore how could it hold as a felony?

"It's a victimless crime," said Adler. "I've heard no argument from the prosecution that anyone was harmed by it. Adler contended, "I urge its dismissal" from a grand larceny charge, and said it would be more appropriate as a civil charge in violation of campaign law procedure.

Ferrell argued the charges be held.

"There are victims," she said. "I'm a victim, everyone in this room who pays taxes is a victim."

During a brief adjournment a spokesman for the district attorney's office suggested

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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

Queens hotel developer buys D' town

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A large development site on Duffield Street between Willsborough Street and the Fulton Mall was sold for \$9 million on Oct. 11 to a prominent hotel developer based in Queens.

The properties at 216-228 Duffield St., which include a three-story building with a retail shop, leased until 2007, and a parking lot, leased until 2009, may bring the first tall luxury hotel into the area, which was recently rezoned under the Downtown Brooklyn Plan to allow for office and other skyscrapers.

Through broker Brian Leary, whose Massey Knakal agency has aggressively landed many clients in the Downtown Brooklyn area, says the property is well-suited for retail and office space, but he had no idea what developer Sam Chang, of McSam Ltd., a development company based in Rego Park, Queens, had planned. "I think the potential is there for them," he said. "They predominantly own hotels, but they also do office space, retail and residential."

Leary himself has closed 12 deals downtown, selling nearly 2 million square feet to be developed.

"There's been inquiries [about downtown] from several national hotel chains," he said, but didn't know of any moving in at the moment. He said he'd had inquiries for everything "from boutique hotels, or the several-hundred-unit corporate-style hotels."

The sold land has 180,000 buildable square feet of space, leaving it

limited to a smaller hotel, if in fact that is something Chang is considering.

Massey Knakal identified the buyer as Metro One Hotel, which is one of the independent hotels Chang started, and may be the name of the new development, when it arrives, if he doesn't build an office building there.

"If Sam bought it, it's going to be a hotel," said broker Frank Profeta, from Metro-One Real Estate, in Medford, N.Y.

The hotels, he said, were named after his agency, which used to do business in the metropolitan area.

"He just liked that word, Metro," said Profeta, who offered some insight to what potential projects may hold.

"What Sam typically will do is make a Comfort Inn or Quality Inn," he said, or continue with his line of Metro One Hotels limited liability companies, which change in numbers. For example, a Metro Three is a Howard Johnson Express Inn on East Houston Street in Manhattan.

When Profeta learned of the new development company name, "McSam," he laughed.

That guy's got an ego bigger than his building.

Chang, who is McSam Hotel LLC's founder and owner, also owns Mike-Sam Construction Corporation, and, based on Internet searches, also owns the firm Sam Chang Architects Ltd., which has offices in Honolulu, Hawaii and Beijing, China.

In April, Chang was named "Developer of the Year" by Hilton Hotels Corporation for developing the first Hilton Garden Inn to make it to Manhattan.

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The hiring of a city commissioner with ties to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to run American Stevedoring in Red Hook is being hailed by working waterfront advocates as a move that will keep open the city's last working cargo port in Brooklyn.

Leading the praise of Red Hook piers boss Sabato "Sal" Catucci's choice of Christopher Ward, the city's Environmental Protection Commissioner and a former Port Authority official, to run his cargo business, was Rep. Jerrold Nadler.

Nadler said that while he was sorry to hear about Catucci's semi-retirement he thought Ward, who on Sept. 28 announced his resignation from the city post, was a positive addition to the stevedoring company.

Through his spokesman Nadler said, "I thank outgoing CEO Sabato Catucci for his years of dedication and service to the port, Brooklyn, the city and most importantly to our economy."

Announcing Ward's resignation on Sept. 28, Mayor Michael Bloomberg publicly lamented the loss of a great leader — also the highest ranking official in the Bloomberg administration — to whom "all New Yorkers owe a debt of gratitude."

Ward, 50, is presumed to have been offered a major raise in pay from his \$162,800 job with the city. In turn, the last cargo port on the Brooklyn waterfront has just been delivered a helmsman with stronger ties than a sheep-shank knut.

Nadler, a major ally of Catucci and supporter of maintaining Brooklyn's working waterfront, said the 66-year-old dock boss will be missed just the same.

"The congressman is sorry to see Sal Catucci retire," said Robert Gottheim, an aide to Nadler, who nevertheless added, "It's a good step for the future, and for more of a working waterfront future."

"It's good news for Brooklyn," said Matt

Yates, a spokesman for American Stevedoring, about the hiring of Ward, who worked as the chief of planning for the Port Authority until Bloomberg recruited him in 2002 to head up the DEP. Prior to that, Ward had also worked for the city's Economic Development Corporation and for American Stevedoring.

It is believed the hiring of Ward to run American Stevedoring, a longstanding maritime shipping company that employs 600 people on the Red Hook Piers, will help in current and future negotiations with the city and Port Authority to keep the company operating on the Brooklyn piers.

As to other options for a working waterfront, Gottheim said everything was still being discussed.

"Nothing's been abandoned," he said. "This month, they should get their approval for a three-year extension of the piers, and that will be until March 2007." He said he hopes the ports will only grow in their capacity for encouraging off-road shipping options.

Nadler would ultimately like to see the operations shifted to Sunset Park as part of his push for a cross-harbor freight tunnel system linking the Brooklyn waterfront with New Jersey.

Ward had previously worked as the Director of Business Development for American Stevedoring.

Ward's role may be strategically beneficial to the company, which is still awaiting a determination from the Port Authority as to its status of a bid for an extended lease on Piers 8-10.

Catucci maintained a defiant stance in public meetings earlier this year with consultants about the city to determine the best use of Piers 6-12. In one instance, he planted himself in the front row of the room and offered unsolicited criticisms during an hour-long presentation by a consultant. Later, he set up his own community information meeting on what to do with the piers.

And at the sentencing of a former Catucci business associate in May on federal fraud charges, Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Weinstein told a judge that investigators had evidence establishing that Catucci and his brother

er Ronald were "Gambino associates who do business primarily out of Brooklyn."

Catucci, who has never been charged with a crime, lashed out at the prosecutors, saying they "must be hallucinating or be morons."

"I don't take crap from nobody... I'm just a fighter," he said. "If that makes me a mobster, then I'm a mobster."

Catucci went on to claim the allegation, reported by the Associated Press, was also an attack on his ally Nadler and an attempt to derail the negotiations over the piers.

"This was done for political reasons," Catucci told The Brooklyn Papers in May. "The article states Jerry Nadler in the beginning and Jerry Nadler in the end. I think they're trying to derail the negotiations."

American Stevedoring's lease with the city expired in April. The company and the city worked out a deal last month to maintain operations on a few of the piers but it still needs to be ratified by the Port Authority.

Port Authority spokesman Steve Coleman said he couldn't confirm whether the three-year extension would be voted on at their next meeting, because the agenda isn't finalized until a day or so before hand.

"We are still in discussions with them on several issues, but until the issues are concluded, the board won't be taking any action. The terms are still being negotiated," Coleman said, and could not confirm which piers were in discussion.

The Brooklyn Papers reported in August that the Port Authority had offered a deal to American Stevedoring, which is the largest importer of cocoa in the nation, wherein the company would be able to keep piers 8, 9 and 10, but piers 11 and 12 would presumably be assigned to cruise ships as part of a city deal with the Carnival and Norwegian cruise lines.

Pier 7 is still a subject of contention, according to sources.

Yates said negotiations with the Port Authority were promising. "We're eager to continue working with everybody to ensure that the vision of Brooklyn's vibrant and economically vital port operations develop to best serve the needs of all."



Rep. Jerrold Nadler



Sabato "Sal" Catucci

Ratner using community board chiefs in 'ploy'

To the editor:

Thank you for publishing Jess Wisloski's informative piece about Forest City Ratner's process of drafting a community benefits agreement for the proposal to build the Nets arena and 17 high-rise towers in Prospect Heights [who will benefit from arena CBAs?] Oct. 16].

In the quote from Forest City Ratner spokesman Johanna Flattery we learn that not only have community board leaders been sitting in on negotiations to draft a (CBA), but that Forest City Ratner is using this fact as proof that "the community" is being represented in these talks.

This reveals one of the most disturbing aspects of what is happening: Ratner is cleverly trying to avoid local review under the city's Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) while simultaneously using its institutions for legitimacy.

The community boards are supposed to represent the community's interest in the local review process. Ratner's ploy sets a dangerous precedent. It will be noted by city boards impeding, making a

mockery of the system designed to develop New York City with vision and intelligence.

I call upon the other board members to have the courage to attempt to undo the damage caused by Forest City Ratner's manipulations, should the community board chairpersons and managers continue participating in this charade. It is up to them to protect their important institutions, and the citizenry.

—Lumi Michelle Rolley, Park Slope

Ikea fight is not over

To the editor:

As the effort to rubberstamp the Ikea application continue, the problems with the project that have been covered up or ignored are starting to be exposed.

A recent public hearing of the City Council, local Community Board 6 leaders testified that if 100 Ikea jobs went to Red Hook, public housing residents it would be a great success. No talk anymore about the 600 jobs for

Red Hook that have been rejected by advocates for the project. Nor was there

LETTERS

any talk about the 100 well-paying, mostly union jobs, now on the list that will be lost if the project proceeds.

Nor was there any talk about the tremendous increase in traffic that will pass through public housing, the ball fields and PS 27 and overhwhelm area streets as Columbia. Nor was there any mention of the loss of parking spaces on Loraine, Columbia and other local streets.

At the hearing there was only the suggestion that people should not be too concerned because more of the traffic (up to 50,000 more cars a week) will be around and through public housing. Nor was there any mention that the already inadequate bus service will be worse as the buses fight their way through those 50,000 cars.

Commutes will be longer and late arrivals to work and home more common.

And, where was the mention of the millions of tax dollars that are to be used to subsidize Ikea, which will

now compete with small businesses throughout Brooklyn that receive no subsidies.

Councilmember Charles Barron is one of the most vocal advocates for people of color. He voted against the project calling it monopoly capitalism at its worst and saying, "There was no competitive bidding and no competing bids for the site were considered."

Kent Barwick, president of the Municipal Art Society, a group devoted to historic preservation and waterfront revitalization, publicly called the Ikea approval by the Planning Commission, "... the worst decision concerning the waterfront in the last 30 years."

Mayor Bloomberg said he supported the project but added, "I wouldn't want to live near it (Ikea)." For these reasons and more the battle must continue. For those who care about the parks, the waterfront, better public transportation,

historic preservation and true economic development, please join us.

—John McGretchik, co-chair, Red Hook Civic Association

Barron stood up for Red Hook

To the editor:

Despite being the only member of the New York City Council to vote against the controversial Ikea project in Red Hook [Ikea Hook like the other major moves in "The Brooklyn Papers," Oct. 16] Councilman Charles Barron neither stands alone nor is he, as some might suggest, "removed from the area."

Quite the contrary, this is a man who came to office without the benefit of a tainted Brooklyn political machine and who has repeatedly distinguished himself as a tireless champion of those who have been brutalized by police or victimized by this city's often arcane policies or dehumanizing bureaucracy.

Indeed, Barron, a former Black Panther, has delivered a lifetime of social, racial and economic justice.

To say anything else about Barron is not only disrespectful, it's an outright sinister lie.

Instead of heaping scorn on Barron for his refusal to merely go with the flow — like another derelict and usually indecisive politician in the area — Barron should be praised for his insight and valid criticism of the project, even if it cost him the final vote.

Red Hook residents could have learned much about how workers in Barron's district, for instance, were enticed with promises of jobs and mobility by a local developer only to land a few dead-end jobs with high turnover.

Even more troublesome, an attempt by workers at one of these stores to organize a union resulted in the unlawful and humiliating arrests of two African-American female employees. I truly hope these scenarios aren't repeated with this project.

Finally, it is really "unreasonable," as [Red Hook] Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez would have us believe, to suggest that we, the largest corporations in the world

share a 1 or 2 percent of its profits with the community they claim to be helping? Spare me! For Ikea, that's a chump change.

It's a shame that the people of southwest Brooklyn do not have a passionate, articulate and visionary local representative in City Hall like Charles Barron who stands on principle and votes his conscience.

A few years ago Red Hook was sold out by a greedy, corrupt politician. Now, I fear, Red Hook was sold out.

—David Galarza, Justice Committee, Windsor Terrace

Send us a letter

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Keep cars out of Prospect Park

The Brooklyn Papers received nearly two-dozen letters from supporters of a car-free Prospect Park in response to the Oct. 9 article headlined "Car-free Prospect Park weas some neighbors."

Below are excerpts from some of those letters.

I live within a few blocks of Prospect Park, and I am strongly in favor of a car-free Prospect Park. Brooklynites go to the park to enjoy a break from our urban environment. Cars whizzing by should not be part of the park experience. ... To the best of my knowledge, there is no evidence to support claims that closing the park to driving has increased traffic on streets around the park. The DOT should undertake a three-month trial closure of the park to test this theory.

—Bernard J. Gallig, Park Slope

I live in the area and I use the park often. There have been a few incidents where I was almost injured by drivers who were not only driving in the bike lane but they were also going the wrong way! I have been almost attempting to cross the road and the majority of the cars completely ignore the stoplights. People walking through the park, people on horses and even parents with strollers are all possible targets for these renegade vehicles. Please take this resident's opinion seriously, we need our space and it must be recreated. —Christopher Robinson, Windsor Terrace

The city needs to start putting people in a priority over cars, which is why placing speed bumps to slow down traffic and keep our streets safe for children and the elderly, placing cam-

eras at red lights to automatically ticket cars that run red light or keeping cars out of our parks...

We should be encouraging people to use more public transportation and less of their cars.

—Scarlett Sulzy-Pons, Park Slope

Why is it necessary for the public to be able to drive through the park when it is so beautiful?

1. There are no commercial properties where deliveries need to be made inside the park.

2. There are a lot of men, women and children who play sports and games of all sorts in this park, who shouldn't have to worry about getting run over by cars;

3. These same people deserve to breathe clean air when performing the above-mentioned activities;

4. There are very few places in this park that are car-free; it is important for the welfare of the people to have a quiet and safe place to go to;

—Anna-Kari Leijn, Greenpoint

I was upset to see in The Brooklyn Papers an article about the issue of cars in Prospect Park. I felt that it was so far from objective journalism that it seemed like an Op-ed piece. As a Park Slope resident and regular cyclist (both on streets and in the park) I see the park mostly as a place for Brooklynites to recreate, to get a breath of fresh air, to escape the urban jungle of traffic.

The reason there are traffic jams is that people who could otherwise take public transportation decide to drive. If traffic jams, people will change their habits to take the train or the bus or ride bikes.

—Zachary Berman, Park Slope

I live across from the park and I drive, I've never driven in the park and don't feel the need to do so.

—Chad Pileri, Windsor Terrace

No thinking person could believe that closing Prospect Park to cars would cause no additional traffic around the park. But isn't a quiet, relatively non-polluted and pedestrian-safe park worth the additional traffic around the park? Brooklynites deserve at least one place where we can escape the cars 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And so do the trees, plants and animals living in the park — they can't leave during rush hour. Let's give it a try.

—Robert Maffucci, Midwood

The article totally ignores the purpose of Prospect Park — providing a shortcut for impatient commuters was probably the furthest thing from Frederick Law Olmsted's mind when he designed Prospect Park with the intent of creating a tranquil, rural landscape where people could recuperate from the incessant pace of city life.

—Geoffrey Vincent, Park Slope

I would like to observe that the increase in traffic in the streets around the park is a result of a larger phenomenon: the increase in traffic throughout the city. Now more than ever we urban dwellers need our park to be what it was intended to be — a park, not an alternate highway.

—Linda Roesser, Park Slope

Even if the arguments about the impact of closing on neighboring streets were valid, which I doubt, the park's carriage lanes were never designed to carry cars. There is no

safe way for pedestrians to enter and leave the park's many attractions without walking on these lanes. Last month, while a young mother with two toddlers struggled to get her kids onto the traffic island between the roads leading to Parkside Avenue, I saw her stroller (fortunately without a child sitting in it) scraped by a car exiting the park. ... Do we have to have children die before we realize that parks are not appropriate places for cars, buses and pickup trucks?

—Richard Rubinowitz, Park Slope

No one would consider, say, eliminating sidewalks to expedite automobile traffic, but allowing cars in Prospect Park, which was created as a place for Brooklynites to relax, does the same thing. When private autos first came to New York, the Parks Department opposed their entry into parks — you could look it up — and their reasons there are still valid.

—Janet Gottlieb, Park Slope

I ride a few times a week during rush hour in the afternoons. The vehicular traffic volume is never great, and I don't see how these relatively few cars alleviate congestion in the streets around the park. What it does do, however, is pose a great risk to runners, cyclists and Rollerbladers in the park. Automobiles take up both of the lanes and often swerve into the shoulder reserved for non-vehicular traffic. Far too many motorists speed and drive recklessly, unchecked as police presence is low. As for the complaints of neighborhood residents, while I sympathize, I say a park is a park, not a place for through-traffic!

—Syed Ali, Boerum Hill



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 23, 2004

Bowling over locals

New Brooklyn Heights bar-lounge, Floyd, NY, offers indoor bocce court & cheap brews

By Chiara V. Cowan
for The Brooklyn Papers

The weekly drink specials are not what's enticing night crawlers to Floyd, NY, a new bar on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights. It isn't the eclectic tunes on the jukebox or the hip crowd hanging around, either. Instead, revelers are drawn by a good, old-fashioned game of bocce.

Inspired by a bar with a couple of outdoor bocce ball courts and a Wine-n-go selling cans of Budweiser for a dollar in southern Florida, Floyd co-owners Andy Templar and Jim and Pam Carden picked up two truckloads of red clay from Staten Island and started building.

"What I loved about the place in Florida is that it was out in the middle of nowhere and still it attracted all sorts of people," Jim Carden, 36, told GO Brooklyn.

Floyd, named after Pam Carden's hometown of Floyd, Iowa, opened on Aug. 30. It's not in the middle of nowhere, but its bocce court is in a place where one would least expect to find it — inside. (To those who have never ventured into Carroll Gardens or Ben-

sonhurst, bocce is an Italian game similar to lawn bowling that uses wooden balls on a long, narrow court covered in dirt or gravel.)

Past the dimly lit lounge and a lengthy, crowded bar, a faint glow shines from the 40-foot by 5-foot bocce court, fully equipped with wooden borders and clay dirt.

Here, unlike a traditional bocce court, you won't find old Italian men decked out in white or cigar smoke lingering in the air; the only language spoken is an ongoing babble of drunken cheers and jeers for the players.

Curious onlookers, from teachers to law school students, sip pints of beer and watch each play while the likes of Luscious Jackson and The Clash emanate from the jukebox.

"Our overall [prerequisite] for music in the jukebox was that it had to have a raw quality, nothing overproduced — OK, except Prince because you can't not include him," said Jim Carden.

Behind the court, one chalkboard lists the rules of the game while another, hanging loosely on a brick pillar, allows patrons to sign up for a match as they please.

In the midst of it all, friends and bocce



Eying 'jack': Revelers enjoy the 40-foot by 5-foot red clay bocce court inside Floyd, NY on Atlantic Avenue. Bowlers attempt to roll their large balls closest to the small "pallino" or "jack."

ball teammates Erik Nadoban, 31, and Paul Glankler, 39, of Cobble Hill were heating things up on the court on a recent night.

"We're on our third game," Nadoban said, "but that doesn't mean that we're the champions of the game. We're only better than the two previous teams."

Nadoban and Glankler played in five matches before they were knocked out. The rules of the game are relatively simple: a small plastic ball called the "pallino" or "jack," similar in size and style to a pingpong ball, is tossed onto the court. Opposing teams then toss larger, heavier balls in the direction of the pallino. Points are awarded to the team whose balls land closest to the pallino.

At Floyd, the first team to score seven points wins. Although seven points may sound like a few quick games, some matches can last more than 30 minutes as teams concentrate on displacing their opponent's balls, scoring only one point per game. Sometimes the competition is so heated that measuring tape is required to determine the distance between each team's balls.

The Cardens and Templar plan to start a bocce league on Sunday and Monday nights that will run similar to a bowling league with round robin play and tournaments. Anyone can play, and cash and other prizes will be awarded.

Around the court, players and observers become fast friends (some even become bocce ball partners), strategies are shared, and beers are passed around.

"We want to make friends with our neighborhood," said head bartender Colin Hodges, 29, of Carroll Gardens. "Our motto is to always keep an affordable, cheap option for people."

One of Floyd's "cheap options" is the "Crap-a-copia." For \$12, beer guzzlers will receive a bucket filled with a six-pack of cheap canned beers including Schlitz, Old Milwaukee, Miller High Life, Colt 45, Stroh's and Pabst Blue Ribbon.

"For the working class," added Hodges with a chuckle.

Another equally unpretentious option is the "45 and a bullet," a can of Colt 45 malt liquor and a nail shot for \$6.

In the front half of the room, large vintage couches and tables — some from the movie sets where Jim worked in production for 13 years — provide a sweet sense of home.

"We wanted to create two distinct areas, something comfy so that people feel like they're hanging out in someone's living room," said Jim.

The crowd, a mix of neighborhood folk, enjoys the chill atmosphere Floyd, NY provides. They lounge on the couches, chat with the bartenders or friends at the bar or nearby tables, and, of course, mill around the bocce court.

"I love it here," Nadoban said. "I love the bocce."

It even has a place for dogs — water bowls, toys, and all.

What more could anyone ask for?

CINEMA



Swede he is!

On Wednesday, BAMcinematek will kick off "It's Not Easy Being Human," a film series of works by Swedish director Roy Andersson.

The first film to be screened is 1970's "A Swedish Love Story," which won the Grand Prix at the Berlin Film Festival. It is one of only three feature films made by Andersson in his 30-year career. Andersson's features, as well as two shorts and a selection of his commercials, will be screened from Oct. 27 through Oct. 30 at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$10. For screening dates and times, call (718) 636-4100. — Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Spooky tunes

One World Symphony conductor Sung Jin Hong (pictured) has programmed a "Halloween Spectacular" of both classical and new music for the symphony's Oct. 29 concert at the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights. In celebration of the spooky holiday, the bill will feature Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird" (1919), Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" (1868) and the world premiere of Stanley Grillo's "The Invisible Ballet" (2004). The concert begins at 8 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Montague and Clinton streets. Admission (including wine and hors d'oeuvres) is \$30, \$20 students and seniors. For more information, call (718) 462-7270 or visit the Web site at www.oneworldsymphony.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

SHOPPING

Bazaar benefit



The Baltic Bazaar store on Atlantic Avenue is hosting a festive bash to thank its donors and the public is invited to join the celebration.

The Baltic Bazaar Bash, on Oct. 27 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm, will feature food, drink, crafts, a corner for decorating masks or hats (just in time for Halloween), a fabric art performance emceed by a comedian, a jazz trio and a silent auction, said Dana Anthony, executive director of the Baltic Street Mental Health Board, the agency that operates the shop.

Proceeds from the silent auction — which offers temptations such as pillows, pins and more goods sold at the store as well as one-of-a-kind items made by people who teach craft classes there — will benefit the 12-year-old shop, which is a work training site for those recovering from mental illness.

"When we started out at 250 Baltic St. we had a budget of \$3,000 and now the Baltic Street Mental Health Board has a \$3.2 million budget to offer support services for the mentally ill," said Anthony. "The Baltic Bazaar is one of the agency's programs. It serves the dual purpose of offering creative opportunities for the community and helps people to get training and get back to work."

Return to the Baltic Bazaar another day to sign up for a class in crocheting, embroidery, felting, knitting or sewing or to shop at this boutique, where luxurious textiles, trims, exotic yarns, buttons and other notions are sold both by the pound and by the piece.

The Baltic Bazaar Bash, at 141 Atlantic Ave. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, is free and open to the public. Open Tuesdays through Sundays. For more information about the bash, call (718) 855-5929 or visit www.balticbazaar.com. — Lisa J. Curtis



Sporting fellows: Floyd, NY owners Andy Templar and Jim Carden in the lounge area of their Brooklyn Heights bar.

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BROOKLYN Eats

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:
PARK SLOPE

A.S. Pork Store

274 Fifth Ave., at First Street, (718) 768-2728
(Dish, MC, Visa)

Open since 1948, A.S. Pork Store has built its impressive reputation on a philosophy of stocking and selling quality foods. The store offers Boar's Head meats as well as a variety of Italian pre-prepared foods. Don't pass up your fresh, house-made mozzarella and sausages. A.S. Pork Store also sells wholesale to restaurants. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Bar Totto

411 11th St., at Sixth Avenue, (718) 768-4698
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees \$6-39

Having formerly operated Luce at the same spot, Pietro Scifano and Kristen Hallett decided to open Bar Totto to offer the neighborhood a more dressed-down and inexpensive (all entrees under \$10 dining option). But, says Scifano, "We have not compromised on the food." The menu of pastas, burgers and paninis will lure young families. And when "reverse happy hour" starts at 11 pm, the lights dim and the young, hip and professional crowd takes over. Open daily for dinner.

Blue Apron Foods

814 Union St., at Seventh Avenue, (718) 230-3180, (MC, V)

Park Slope resident Ted Matern and former Sloper Alan Palmer opened this scrumptious cheese and charcuterie shop in November 2002. With 60 years of combined experience in the gourmet food business — including at Dean & DeLuca and Bloomington's — the owners have made Blue Apron Foods a destination for foodies who prize high-quality goods, moderate prices and top-notch service. Blue Apron also sells all of those must-have packaged foods that make for elegant accessories to your smoked meats, fishes and cheeses: mustards and other condiments, salt jams, chutneys, and fresh-baked bread from Manhattan's Sullivan Street Bread and Amy's Bread, and Brooklyn's own Royal Crown. Ask for Pain D'Auignon breads on the weekends.

"We key in on a lot of Brooklyn producers, including Jacques Torres chocolate from DUMBO, fruit tarts from Margaret Polca, in Red Hook, and Amy Berg's cookies from Park Slope," says Palmer.

Closed Mondays. Open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 am to 7:30 pm; Saturdays, from 10 am to 7 pm; and Sundays, from 11 am to 6 pm.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave., at 14th Street, (718) 369-7776
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees \$8-13

Cafe Steinhof, named after a famous park in Vienna, has a European feel — a German "beer garden" with a hint of British pub. True to its cultural roots and the tastes of owner and chef Paul Goebert, the restaurant serves specialty (small dumplings), schnitzel (meat that's been dipped in egg, breaded and fried) and sauerbraten (beef that's been marinated for several days and then roasted). Cafe Steinhof offers live beer on tap and 10 bottled beers from Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and Britain, as well as wine and a full bar. Cafe Steinhof is open daily for lunch and dinner, except Mondays, when they're closed for lunch. On Monday nights, instead of the usual menu, \$3 bowls of goulash, a \$6 sauerbraten and \$3 apple bread pudding are offered.

Cafe Steinhof screens '60s and '70s movies every Sunday, including such grisly classics as "Jaws" and "Deliverance." Occasionally, musicals such as "Moulin Rouge" are shown on Wednesday evenings. Be sure to visit on the first Wednesday of every month for live music. Closed Mondays. Open Tuesday through Thursday, from 11 am to 11 pm; Friday and Saturday, from 11 am to midnight; and Sunday, from 11 am to 11 pm.

The ChipShop

383 Fifth Ave., at Sixth Street, (718) 832-7701,
www.chipshopnyc.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$7-12

Owner Christopher Sell has a real winner with this Park Slope version of an English staple, The Chip Shop. Open seven days a week for lunch and

★ = Full review available at
Brooklyn Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Owner's Club, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card



Individual pizza with prosciutto, mozzarella and fresh arugula at Bar Totto.

dinner, serving all the British classics: fish and chips, bangers and mash, shepherd's pie, etc. Desserts include fruit crumbles (apple and blackberry, and rhubarb), both served with custard and deep-fried candy bars. To take the chi out of winter, Sell also offers steaming stews. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Sidewalk cafe seats available in season.

Convivium Osteria

68 Fifth Ave., at St. Marks Avenue, (718) 857-1833, (AmEx) Entrees for one: \$13-24

Convivium Osteria, with its ocher-toned walls and rough-hewn tables — some communal — has a rustic Mediterranean feel. Chef and owner Carlo Pulici has skipped around the Mediterranean combining the flavors of Spain, Portugal and Italy on the Convivium Osteria menu. Among the tapas highlights are the seafood tapes for two, Vermont quails with figs, and "boquerones" or pickled anchovies. Try the Sicilian dessert "sebade," ravioli filled with pecorino cheese, fried, and topped with bitter honey. Open daily for dinner.

The CurryShop

383 Fifth Ave., at Sixth Street, (718) 832-7701,
www.curryshopnyc.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$8-12

British interpretations of Indian cuisine find a home at CurryShop, next door to its sister restaurant, ChipShop. Chef-owner Christopher Sell's rich Mulli Mutton is the seafood tapes for two, Vermont quails with figs, and "boquerones" or pickled anchovies. Try the Sicilian dessert "sebade," ravioli filled with pecorino cheese, fried, and topped with bitter honey. Open daily for dinner.

Jack's

519 Fifth Ave., at 13th Street, (718) 965-8675
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-15

Chef Mauro Gonzales cooks comfort classics served in a setting that makes diners feel at home. The menu includes American, Mexican and Italian cuisines — crab cakes, shrimp topped with quail and black beans, shrimp cappellini decadent with garlic virgin olive oil — and decadent desserts like apple brown Betty with vanilla ice cream. Jack's also offers daily specials and live music on Tuesday and Friday nights. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday, from 10 am to 4 pm. Closed Mondays. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner.

Joe's Pizza

137 Seventh Ave., at Carroll Street, (718) 398-9198 and (718) 398-9201 (AmEx, MC, V) Pizzas: \$12 and up

Fans of the famous Joe's Pizza on Bleeker Street don't have to trek to Manhattan for a slice anymore. Joe's opened its Park Slope outpost in July 2003, and it's offering up the same crispy, thin-crust pizzas. Enjoy a traditional pie, or give the white pizza (topped with ricotta and mozzarella without tomato sauce) or Sicilian square a try. And there's no need to stand — Joe's Pizza in Brooklyn has plenty of seating. Open weekdays, from 10 am to 10 pm, and weekends, from 11 am to 11 pm.

Long Tan

195 Fifth Ave., at Union Street, (718) 622-8444,
www.longtan.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-16

Long Tan is a friendly and relaxed Thai restaurant where comfy cushions in vibrant colors line an open, white dining room dotted with hanging paper lanterns. A large window overlooks a garden area with outdoor seating. For appetizers, Long Tan offers a large-spiked crab cakes with Asian quail. Other appetizers include the pad Thai spring roll salad and a mini-Peking crispy duck bun. For entrees, the restaurant's signature dishes include a yellow curry of butternut squash, three-flavored snapper, and duck with tamarind sauce.

At Long Tan's red bar, sassy cocktails make drinking here an original experience. The wines are from Australia and New Zealand, making the restaurant a favorite spot for wine enthusiasts. Open daily for lunch. Long Tan also offers takeout and delivery and caterers parties.

Survivor eats all

'Brooklyn Eats' smorgasbord is blissful endurance test for hundreds of foodies

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Next year, the Brooklyn Eats festival should be filmed as a "Survivor" for the food world. Cameras could trail a group of enthusiastic foodies as they waded through the offerings of 70 restaurants. Camera people would capture the group's initial comments, "I can't wait to try the pate and the duck confit! And those cakes!"

As their cameras rolled, viewers would admire the group's stoic determination to continue as participants' shaky hands lifted the final bites of cheesecake to their lips. The last man or woman standing who tried everything would win the evening's equivalent to the immunity necklace on "Survivor" — a day of feasting and massage at a local spa.

The eighth annual Brooklyn Eats, held on Oct. 18 in the New York Marriott Brooklyn, wasn't filmed for national broadcast. But the event, sponsored by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, tested the endurance of about 800 diners. The evening's challenge was to sample each of the 62 contributing chef and food purveyors' delicacies and sip glasses of wine, beer, limeade, coffee and sodas from the 10 beverage vendors. (Not to mention Schnack restaurant's award-winning beer shakes.)

And game they were. Each diner exhibited their own style — some paced themselves, beginning the evening with small bites of sharp gyure cheese and a pungent buttermilk bled to dab with a swirl of port wine reduction from Boerum Hill's Tuller Premium Foods, building up to the big bang with a slice of Junior's cheesecake from the Downtown Brooklyn institution. Others jumped lock-first into Mama Dale's of Prospect Heights — spicy, peppery barbecued chicken wings with creamy macaroni and cheese then sampled dishes and desserts in no particular order.

As the night wore on, some diners exhibited glacial eyes, an upper lip beaded with sweat and trembling hands as they ate a food hangover — but no one was complaining.

The lure of the chefs' goods made walking by without a taste impossible for some. The best of the many shrimp dishes (too many some felt) came from Peter How, the chef of Bay Ridge's Malaysian bistro Banana Leaf, who served large crisp shrimp in light coconut butter atop tiny chunks of wasabi and tamarind-spiced sweet pineapple. Chef Walter Splender of Archives Restaurant at the Marriott offered huge,



The future of food: (Clockwise from left) New York City Technical College student Ronney Williams, displaying the "chocolate cherry cake" she made with fellow students, won a scholarship at Brooklyn Eats on Oct. 18; Robert Tuller of Tuller Premium Food in Boerum Hill distributed "Buttermilk Blue" cheese from Roth Kase Company of Wisconsin; Frats Ices of Park Slope offered samples of spumoni and mango-coconut Italian ices; and Annah Jams of Aunt Suzie's handed out coupons for the Park Slope Italian restaurant.

tender grilled prawns wrapped in bacon over a sprightly frieze salad, and Basil Jones of Footprints Cafe in East Flatbush dished out hair-raising hot, smoky jerk shrimp.

Up there with the best was Great Performances, the caterer of BAMCafe, whose chef, Carlos Gomez, did a riff on traditional southern shrimp and grits. His shrimp were grilled with chipotle peppers, their chili-enhanced sweetness amplified by a delicious slice of creamy grits laced with a generous amount of aged cheddar, Parmesan and pungent Asiago cheeses.

Milder but equally good were crisp lettuce leaves filled with salmon ceviche (raw fish and shellfish marinated in citrus juice) tinged with wasabi and topped with crunchy beads of red caviar, an ingenious creation by chef

Marc Elliot of Blue Star in Cobble Hill. Monroe Shannon of Akwaaba Cafe dished out rare squares of salmon (not an easy feat with chafing dishes) served with a tangy citrus sauce and a sprig of salmon caviar. And, the elegant avocado and crab "Napoleon," a simple disc of the ingredients napped with a tangy lemon beurre blanc and a bit of herb-fresh basil oil, from chef Anthony Rinaldi of the Pearl Room in Bay Ridge, was an understated delight.

Meat eaters headed to the Blue Ribbon table where Park Slope's chef Bruce Bromberg served sweet and smoky barbecue pulled pork on challah neatly offset by the tinge of anise flavored in the beef's partner, a crisp fenel salad. Somewhere between a meat-loaf and pate, was Jim Tackas' smoked wild boar and venison meat loaf with rich "Brooklyn monster gravy." (Tackas is the chef at the former Ale House in Brooklyn Heights.) Rebecca Peters of Cocote Restaurant in Park Slope managed to balance rich and light tastes in her lovely roasted squash and duck confit wrapped in a light, egg crepe.

Other savory hits that deserve mentioning are the fall-off-the-bone Moroccan lamb shanks with chick pea salad from Five Front in DUMBO by chef Paul Vicino; moist, crisp-skinned, deep-fried turkey from Artica Westbrooks of Jive Turkey in Fort Greene; the salmon accented with chunks of cinnamon-tinged mango offered by chef Karen Pompey of JRG Restaurant Bar & Fashion Cafe in Fort Greene; and a delicate, not sweet, eggplant caponata, served by chef's Mario DeBlase and Gregorio Huerta of Soto Vico in Park Slope that was especially appealing. The chefs from Soto Vico also poured potent, homemade liqueurs that filled the palate with a clean hit of lemon, basil or rose; the rose was enchanting.



Straddling savory and sweet, was the luscious kabocha (winter) squash and pear bisque topped with pear and melted brie croissants drizzled with a bit of cinnamon cream fraiche from chef Martha Johnson whose cafe, Zoila in Boerum Hill, was a newcomer to the event.

Sweet eaters were lured to the tables by many of the borough's best pastry chefs. Anders Lekberg of Sweet Melissa Patisserie, in Cobble Hill, scored big points for her vanilla cake filled with caramel cream and slices of ripe banana; its espresso butter cream icing served to cut the sweetness of the cake. Lassen & Hennings, the gourmet prepared foods shop in Brooklyn Heights, offered slices of ethereal strawberry shortcake cut from coffee table-sized slabs. The cake's crumb was fine and moist and the strawberries ripe. Loulou, a French bistro in Fort Greene, attracted a crowd with chef Bill Snell's light, barely sweet crepe filled with a cloud of vanilla custard and a slice of Bosc pear, given crunch with a sprinkling of crisp, sweet pecans.

New York City College of Technology students Shakia Hall, Latoya Mason and Ronney Williams, were winners of this year's Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Brooklyn Eats Scholarships. The three offered a cake developed for the event, "City Tech's Chocolate Cherry Cake." The dessert's deep chocolate flavor was lightened with a layer of soft, boozy sweet cherries.

Next year, the same diners, and plenty of others like them, will face the vast tables of food determined to taste everything. A few will succeed. Most will have defeated. Some will collapse from the strain of overindulgence. That's the way it goes when the tribal council has spoken.

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Young 'Hamlet'

Youthful troupe leads audience through Bed-Stuy debris in must-see production

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Even if you've seen "Hamlet" dozens of times, you shouldn't miss Working Mutt Production's site-specific presentation at their new space — the basement of a turn-of-the-century opera house in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The former theater is currently under renovation, as it is being turned into a 21st-century apartment complex, and the basement where the play unfolds seems to be the repository for all the junk that was once in the building.

Director Charlie Sargent has made wise and innovative use of the space, taking the audience from one shadowy, musty, dungeon-like room to another as he explores the dark recesses of Hamlet's mind. In this way, some of the play's most famous scenes become eerily alive. The gravediggers sit atop a pile of discarded bricks. As Claudius prays, his new stepson (and former nephew), Hamlet, appears behind him, his body slowly appearing as he descends a narrow staircase. Hamlet's father remains forever in the shadows of damnation. And the pervasive decay is, in fact, the state of Denmark.

Liz Sargent's set design is truly brilliant. But even with this extror-

inary confluence of place and play, "Hamlet" can only succeed with great acting, especially in the title role. The director, himself a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA), has relied heavily on fellow alumni.

Lucas Hall, a recent graduate of the school, gives Hamlet all the contradictory qualities of youth older actors so often don't understand or fail to convey adequately — indecision and impulsiveness, cynicism and idealism, assertiveness and dependence. Hall makes Hamlet not only believable but also familiar. He is a bewildered young man overwhelmed by the adult world. It is the great tragedy of his life that by the time he grows up, it is too late.

If Hamlet is the obvious hero of the play, critics and directors are still debating who the villain is. In this production, Sargent seems to believe it is Polonius (Jeff Burchfield), counselor to the king. Convinced and ambitious, this Polonius is clearly in

command. Polonius, who, like Claudius, wears a business suit (Tara Hawks, with a BA from NCSA, is costume designer), is the archetypal avaricious CEO. He is more concerned with his personal welfare than the finances of his company. To make the

THEATER

"Hamlet" runs through Oct. 30, Thursday through Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., at Opera House (27 Arion Place at Broadway in Bedford-Stuyvesant). Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Reservations recommended. For reservations, call (718) 573-0433 or www.working-muttproduction.org.

relationship between his actions and his pocketbook perfectly clear, Sargent has Burchfield constantly transferring his loose change from hand to hand, so much so that his death comes as a welcome relief from that irritating jangling!

Robyne Parrish (another NCSA product) is a regal but weak Queen Gertrude (mother of Hamlet and new wife of Claudius). Sargent appears to be unwilling to explain the psychosexual relationship between mother and son. Given the numerous ways this aspect of the play has been tweaked and tormented, this was not entirely a disappointment. Still, one would like to have seen a little more depth in the role.

However, one of the nicest surprises in this production was Jerry Miceli's interpretation of Polonius' son, Laertes. Miceli (also of NCSA) plays Laertes with such sensitivity the character becomes as much a tragic hero as prince Hamlet. As the two young men lie dead at each other's hands, the play becomes a double tragedy.

If Hamlet has lost a father, Laertes has lost a father and his sister (Ophelia). What's more, he does not have to be prodded into action. He knows his duty and doesn't hesitate to do it. If Hamlet had been so decisive, there might have been a lot less bloodshed. (There also would not have been a



'The play's the thing': In Working Mutt Production's site-specific "Hamlet," Ophelia (played by Jennifer Ferrin) peers down the stairway.

play.)

As something of a traditionalist, this reviewer is loathe to say it, but this "Hamlet" was sorely in need of additional cutting. Shakespeare's plays are already long by modern standards and this one is his longest, but add to the running time the many moves of the audience from set to

set, and by the end of the three-hour-long play, it's a tossup who is wearier, the audience or the actors.

With this said, if you're in good health and sure of step, don't let the length of this show dissuade you. "Hamlet" may never be presented by a more dedicated and talented group of young professionals.

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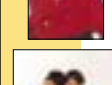
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At jazz

Scholars and musicians at LIU remember Brooklyn Paramount's musical legacy

By Bill Francis
For The Brooklyn Papers

The intersection of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn was once again a jazz mecca Friday, as the old Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, once one of the world's most majestic movie palaces, was remembered for its off-overlooked legacy as the stage for many of jazz's greatest legends.

"Remembering jazz at the Brooklyn Paramount," an unprecedented, day-long conference, photo exhibit and concert was held on the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University, which has absorbed and preserved much of the historic theater's interior splendor despite the fact that it has been converted into a basketball court.

An impressive lineup of celebrated jazz critics, writers, historians, scholars and musicians shared personal memories and historical facts about the famous theater and Brooklyn's golden age of jazz during speeches and round-table discussions with critics and musicians. Featured speakers were noted writers Gary Giddins, Ira Gitler, popular jazz observer Phil Schaap and historian Patricia Williams.

"I don't recall ever seeing this many outstanding scholars and writers of jazz in one place before," said Williams, the longtime Duke Ellington publicist and author.

Among those participating in the musicians' roundtable were pianists Eddie Bert who played with Alan Freet's band at the Brooklyn Paramount in the '50s.

"This is a chance to call attention to all the jazz that was here in the Brooklyn Paramount and all the great, great players who were here," said Michael Hittman, the LIU anthropology professor whose untiring efforts and passion for jazz were the driving force behind the unique event. Hittman was inspired to put together the conference and concert by what he learned as producer and host of his interview program "Jazz Sounds" on WLIU radio.

"It was astonishing for me to personally learn about Ella [Fitzgerald] and that all the jazz greats were here at the Brooklyn Paramount," he said. A one-credit course was offered and volleyball and graduate students who attended the conference.

Two walking tours of what was once called one of the most beautiful theaters in the world explained why the Brooklyn Paramount, which opened in 1928, was a true movie



The Brooklyn Theatre, Courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum

palace with its 4,000-plus red velvet seats, Renaissance-inspired sculptures, huge fountains filled with goldfish, and nine stories of art deco and rococo interior. Between movies, there were often live performances by the top stars of the day, including Mae West, Ginger Rogers, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Milton Berle and Bing Crosby. During the '50s, the theater helped give birth to rock 'n' roll with Alan Freet's famous shows featuring the likes of Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly and Richie Valens.

Not as well-known or remembered is that at the theater's plush seats and also regularly took to the Paramount stage, including Ellington, Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Sam Davis and John Coltrane.

LIU brought the lavish theater in 1950 and ended movies there in 1963. Today, the theater's plush seats and great stage have been replaced by the simple wooden bleachers and basketball court that is the home gymnasium for the LIU basketball and volleyball teams. But when the athletes and fans look to the rafters, they still see the awe-inspiring ornate ceiling, chandelier and huge wall fountains. Also preserved is the Paramount's marble lobby, with its magnificent stairway, that now serves as the

main campus cafeteria. Stories of living in Brooklyn during its golden jazz era and its historic and cultural importance were the theme of the day.

"This is where I learned about jazz," said renowned critic Gitler, who shared that he was born in Brooklyn only a few weeks after the theater opened. "A lot of people got exposure to jazz in the city's theaters, like the Brooklyn Paramount, that they might not otherwise have gotten," said Giddins, a former Village Voice jazz columnist and a contributor to Ken Burns' landmark PBS documentary series "Jazz."

He also lamented the destruction of most of America's grand movie theaters. "I think it's such a disgrace that we build these monuments to culture and then we tear them down," said Giddins.

Keynote speaker Schaap, host of WKCR radio's "Bird Flight" program, which is devoted to the music of Charlie "Bird" Parker, spoke of the little-known connection between rock 'n' roll and jazz artists who played the

Brooklyn Paramount during the '50s. The popular encyclopedia chronicler of jazz related a story about legendary rock 'n' roll promoter Freet and jazz saxophonist "Big AT" Sears calling it a "part of a more important brotherhood of music and of humanity" that took place during a period when America

was addressing issues of race and equality. Ellington, who first introduced jazz to the Brooklyn Paramount audience in 1931, gave the last jazz performance on the theater's stage 40 years later.

That was true until Friday. In fitting style, a day of remembering Brooklyn's jazz legacy concluded with an evening concert featuring the LIU All-stars, a group of jazz-playing faculty members and pros.

With spotlights illuminating the ornate ceiling and transforming the basketball gymnasium, it was easy for the candle-lit tables—and in the bleachers—to imagine what it must have been like when thousands heard Duke, Bird, Tane, Dizzy and Ella in the same hallowed hall.

Now through Oct. 30, Soda Bar in Prospect Heights will host "Oktoberfest," a celebration of beers from international microbreweries. Soda Bar's owner, Anatoly Dubinsky (pictured on right with bartender Michael Li-Dondici), whom you may remember from his now defunct Smith Street Kitchen, will pour Spaten, from Munich, and Flying Dutch, a pale ale from Colorado, in addition to 13 specialty beers.

In November, Dubinsky will expand on the soda theme by adding Soda Lounge, a more upscale — but still casual — space next door.

"We needed more seats indoors for the winter time because the bar has become so popular," he says. The lounge will sport ice cream parlor signs like those that have hung in the bar since it opened in 2002.

"Henry Bosses had a sundae shop and soda fountain here for years," says Dubinsky, "so the name and the signs come from him."



While Soda Bar will continue to serve hamburgers and pierogies, the menu at Soda Lounge will go a step further than the "typical bar food." Dubinsky describes the cuisine as "American taps," or, simply, affordable cheese plates and antipasti. Margaritas will be made from fresh seasonal fruit such as strawberries or pineapple.

And cocktails will be mixed with famous Boylan sodas. Soda Bar (629 Vanderbilt Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Dishes: \$3-\$8.50. The bar is open until 4 a.m. daily. For information call (718) 230-8393.

— Tina Barry

Where to GO...

Continued from page 13...

Noon, Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 220-2302. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presentation of "448 Psychosis," \$45, \$35, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 252-8795.

RYAN REP: Ryan Repertory Company presents "Cloud Nine," play about sexual repression and identity. \$25, \$20 students and seniors, 8 p.m. 4445 Bath St. (718) 996-4800.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents rock musical "Hair," \$15, \$12, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday. 111 Avenue C, (718) 264-9054. Free.

SHAKESPEARE: Working Mut Productions presents a site-specific production of "Hamlet," \$10, 7:30 p.m. Opera House, 27 West 4th St. (718) 865-4444.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Come Tomorrow," a multi-media dance work which features the latest in contemporary dance, the American South and the Manhattan Delta Ballet. \$10, 7:30 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 636-4100.

BUSMAN: Narrows Community and high school of Brooklyn, American Still Here, \$15, \$10 students and children under 12, 8 p.m. 111 Avenue C, (718) 264-9054. Free.

BRIC STUDIO: presents Dancespace Theatre in program "The Edge," emerging dance artists, \$10, 8 p.m. 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

MUSIC: Closures plays classic rock, 10:30 p.m. 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

BLOCK PARTY: Halloween costume parade and more, 9 p.m. 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

CHILDREN: DOLL & CRAFT SHOW: The Doll and Toy Museum of NYC hosts

"Faces and Bodies," \$6, \$3 seniors and students, free for members and children under 12, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Also, "Transformations," 4 p.m. 220 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5200.

AQUARIUM: Halloween celebration. Children are invited to come in costume. Noon to 4 p.m. 511 admission, 5 children \$2, 12 and seniors, also, "Child's Play" Fall Play.

HAUNTED: Haunted Micro Museum hosts a holiday event, \$2, free kids under 5. Refreshments. 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

EXHIBIT CHARTER: presents the "Halloween" exhibit, \$10, 10 to 10 with one child. Come in costume. \$15, \$10 members. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday. NY Aquarium, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue, (718) 265-5734.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Hansel and Gretel" by the Brothers Grimm. Recommended for ages 4 and up, \$7 children, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. 333 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

FAMILY PROGRAM: Brooklyn Historical Society offers "The Magic of Brooklyn." Kids are invited to be entertained by Richard and Alexandra Cohn as they involve the kids in a program of magic, music and history of Brooklyn. Admission free for 6 adults, \$4 children plus \$6 adults and \$4 children for the program, 2 p.m. 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

RECEPTION: Five Miles Gallery presents "Peeppish" by Hester Peck, \$10, 11 p.m. 558 St. Johns Place, (718) 636-4100.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Safe, fun-filled environment to celebrate Halloween, 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Church of the Holy Apostles, 612 Greenough St. (718) 871-1615.

OTHER: CREEP SHOW: Halloween season adult-oriented spookhouse. Live performance and video. 7 p.m. to midnight. Sideways, 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

TRASH BAR: Halloween season adult-oriented spookhouse. Live performance and video. 7 p.m. to midnight. Sideways, 111 Avenue C, (718) 636-4100.

Southpaw: 125 Fifth St. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 220-0226, www.southpaw.com.

Peggy O'Neill's: 812 Fifth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 220-0226, www.peggyoneills.com.

Magnetic Field: 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 392-3778, www.magneticfield.com.

Pete's Candy Store: 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 392-3778, www.petes-candy.com.

Ripple Bar: 769 Washington Ave. at Spring Place in Crown Heights, (718) 636-4100.

Samba Restaurant & Nightclub: 9021 Third Ave. at 86th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 220-0226, www.sambabar.com.

Sideways by the Seashore: 155 Astor Drive at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 822-3994.

The Wicked Monk: 8415 First Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 220-0226, www.wickedmonk.com.

Sistas' Place: 454 Norstrand Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 392-3778.

Office Ops: 57 Thorne St. at Morgan Avenue in Williamsburg, 2nd Floor, (718) 418-2009, www.officeops.com.

Madness: 57 Thorne St. at Morgan Avenue in Williamsburg, 2nd Floor, (718) 418-2009, www.officeops.com.

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Barbes
335 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 967-7177, www.barbesbar.com.

Black Betty
364 Metropolitan Ave. at Havermeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-0243, www.blackbetty.com.

Bluestone Bar & Grill
117 Columbia St. at Kane Street in Columbia Street Waterfront District, (718) 422-6200, www.bluestonebar.com.

Boudoir Bar
273 Smith St. at Sackett Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 424-8878, www.eastendboudoir.com.

Cafe 111
111 Court St. at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 688-2866, www.cafe111.com.

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Chocolate Monkey
329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 613-1073, www.chocolatemonkey.com.

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444 Broadway at Broadway and Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 262-2972.

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285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 398-8900, www.le-dakar.com.

Europa Night Club
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ARENA CLASH...

Continued from page 1
not an endorsement of the project," he said, and encouraged members to focus on ideas and suggestions based on the outlines.

"Any suggestion can be sent to the community board until Monday, Oct. 25," said Peris, and he provided the address and e-mail for information purposes: 350 Jay St., 8th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or ch2k@nyc.com.

But his statement did little to assuage fears by committee members, as well as community members in attendance, that they were being manipulated by a developer — Forest City Ratner principal owner Bruce Ratner — who still had not provided thorough financing information or detailed plans for the project.

Although the committees came to conclusions in individual sessions, during which both board members and guests aired discontent, the suggestion to make a motion for withdrawal from the CBA negotiations was agreed upon by both the Land Use and Traffic-Transportation committees.

McRae could not be reached for comment on the committee decisions by press time.

At the Land Use Committee meeting on Oct. 20, Forest City Ratner Executive Vice President Jim Stuckey presented hopeful answers to committee and community members, who grew increasingly unsatisfied with his responses.

"I've looked at this, Mr. Stuckey," said committee member Ken Diamondstone, a longstanding board member, waving the one double-sided page that comprises the draft of the CBA. "It looks to me like a laundry list. This is not a community agreement, or even the beginning of a community agreement."

Diamondstone said he had never seen something distributed to all the committees for



Jim Stuckey



Shirley McRae

consideration simultaneously, but thought he knew this was an exception.

"The reason you distributed this is not because you really want our input. The reason is you want us to tacitly agree so that you can go to the press and co-opt us and say, 'We've gone to the community boards and they've participated with us,'" Diamondstone charged.

The Land Use committee chairman, Ernie Augustus, cut him off. "This is a big community board," Augustus said. "There are people who oppose this project, and there are people who support it. This community board has to articulate the broad spectrum. No, we're not going to disengage. You can be in negotiation. You don't have to be in conflict or an accomplice to negotiate. But you have to be engaged."

But Ursula Hahn, who sits on the Traffic-Transportation committee and attended the Land Use meeting, asked how the board could be expected to offer anything when they had no idea what to expect from the massive development proposal.

"We don't have any details yet to work with," said Hahn. Stuckey responded using some favorite catchphrases.

"You have to do things in a

context," he said, "where you can't ignore issues like secondary displacement. And you can't ignore issues like affordable housing for people when you just drop a development into an area."

The Atlantic Yards plan depends on the taking of private property under the state's authority of eminent domain. The rest would be built over Metropolitan Transportation Authority rail yards pending the sale of those air rights to Forest City Ratner.

Following Stuckey's comments, board members asked why the project was skirting the city's rigorous Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) in favor of the far less stringent state review process. Doris Golub, a member of both CB2 and the Fort Greene Association, said Forest City Ratner should be happy to undertake the seven-month review — which calls for public hearings before the community board, borough president, City Planning Commission and City Council.

"When the project comes out at the other end you have people in favor of the project," she said.

See CB2 on page 16

Pratt study cites 'concern' over Ratner's arena plan

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A Pratt Institute study released this week revealed that 81.4 percent of polled residents in the Prospect Heights neighborhood were either "very concerned" or "concerned" about developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards project.

The study highlighted "very specific things that can be addressed by development," according to one of the researchers.

The neighborhood is not well represented in the process; that is an indicator to us that there are going to be some problems getting this through the community," said Gibb Vecomi, founder of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council, an umbrella group for a handful of area neighborhood committees that enlisted the help of researchers from the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PICCED) to fund and complete the study.

"It's hard to understand because people in the affected area are largely in support of development, and of the benefits being offered," he said. But the neighbors appeared concerned that such issues as public education, street conditions and security from crime, were not addressed by Ratner's plan. Ratner's plan includes 17 high-rise buildings, a 19,000-seat basketball arena for his New Jersey Nets and soaring office towers as tall as 620 feet on 24 acres of public and private property emanating from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

The survey, which polled 400 of the neighborhood's 20,000 residents, did not focus on questions about the arena

(which itself could hold the current population of Prospect Heights) but rather quality of life and other concerns, although it does address the arena plan significantly.

On Wednesday, the PICCED study was released to an audience of more than 100 residents who gathered at PS 9 on Underhill Avenue. A copy had not yet been made available to Forest City Ratner.

The school auditorium was filled with rapt listeners as Vecomi introduced PICCED Director Brad Lander. A timeline of the Atlantic Yards plan's history was read by Roz Parr, a member of the Prospect Heights Association. Lander told an audience member that the demographic group covered in the study was a close representation of the community itself, which is made up of 51 percent black, 28 percent white, 14 percent Hispanic and 4 percent Asian residents, according to the 2000 Census that was cited in the study.

Lander added that he thought the various economic classes were represented "across the spectrum," although the study showed 38 percent of the respondents earned more than \$100,000 per year, and less than 12 percent earned less than \$35,000, a drastic reversal of the average area income, which Bertha Lewis, director of ACOORN NY identified as \$28,000. The Corcoran Group estimates the area's median income at \$42,477.

Most respondents (224 of 412) completed the survey online, while the remainder were solicited to fill out the detailed, 26-question survey in busy areas of Prospect Heights, or received the study by mail.

About a quarter of the respondents had lived in the com-

munity for more than 10 years.

Major findings in the study showed, according to Vecomi, that 74 percent of the respondents said they were concerned about taxpayer costs for the Atlantic Yards project, 73 percent were "very concerned" about the estimated impact of a 10-year construction project (which has been projected by Forest City Ratner), and 63 percent said they were "very concerned" the development would be out of scale with the neighborhood.

Following the presentation by Lander and Vecomi, state Sen. Volmanette Montgomery voiced opposition to the Ratner project, and encouraged the attendees to envision an alternative development on the site and to involve themselves in community organizing.

"The information contained in the survey we believe should be very relevant to any developer, and to any state agent who wants to develop in Prospect Heights," said Montgomery.

Councilwoman Letitia James, who also represents Prospect Heights and has been the most vocal elected official opposing the arena plan, agreed, but said she would not advocate the project causing community divide.

"I see more and more a top-down review overlooking the people who will be most affected and impacted by this process," James said. "However, I recognize that we need to stay together. It has divided this community by race, by economic status, by community board, by neighborhood, and I won't put up with that."

Vecomi disagreed. "I don't think it's divided the community, but perhaps the developers have tried very hard to do that," he said.

As people filed out of the meeting, Tyler Cohen, a member of the House of the Lord Church, in Boerum Hill, handed out flyers advertising a meeting this Wednesday.

"Rev. Daughtry under at-

tack!" was italicized across either side of the flyer, which professed to tell "the truth about the \$2.1 billion Atlantic Yard [sic] Development" and stated "clearly our community will reap enormous benefits from the agreement."

The Rev. Herbert Daughtry, pastor of the House of the Lord Church, was brought into the negotiations for a community benefits agreement two weeks ago. He is one of several clergy who was invited, and the only one who accepted, to join in the negotiations.

Meanwhile Prospect Heights resident Marc Cohen said a lack of leadership would be the downfall of any attempt to fight the massive Ratner project. "I just feel like the community's not coming together. There's too many independent constituents who are doing their own thing. Personally, I don't even feel that there's a strong leadership to confront the developer," said the 15-year resident and father of three.

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Work on Joralemon buildings irks tenants

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

William Ringler was dismayed to wake to the sounds of construction outside his Brooklyn Heights apartment building at 8 am on Tuesday.

Of more concern to Ringler, however, was the fear that those sounds might substantiate what he'd taken as mere rumors that the 114-year-old apartment building on Joralemon Street at Columbia Place was under attack by its owner. The building is part of the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

Rumors circulated for weeks that the owner of the buildings at 24-30 Joralemon St. (also known as 10-30 Columbia Place), Joel Weiner, represented by Pinnacle Management Company, had been planning to build a garage underneath the

old apartment complex.

Ringler had heard the rumors, but ignored them.

"It's absolutely ridiculous. You hear something like that and you just don't pay any attention to it," he said. "But then you hear the heavy equipment like that outside..."

One day Ringler, noticing that there were no permits or work orders posted, asked a contractor drilling holes in the ground what was going on.

"They said they were doing test drillings and they didn't need a permit," Ringler said.

But when he heard the "tucked tracks on the asphalt — that grinding sound" of a team of contractors and their equipment arriving Tuesday morning, he picked up the phone.

By 11 am, a hole at least 15 feet wide had been dug by an earth mover hastily eating away at the ground, pulling up with the

soil chunks of metal and rocks, and exposing the foundation. A

half-hour later, a jackhammer started gouging at and splitting concrete behind 24 Joralemon St. Angelo Olivera, superintendent of the five buildings — there are actually five buildings, although mauling and street addresses identify only four — stood back and surveyed the scene Tuesday, adjusting his cap.

Right now they are running tests," said Olivera. "They're checking the foundation out to make sure it is solid... they're going to make an underground garage."

He said it would be for public use, but with priority given to tenants.

Calls to both Weiner, the landlord, and Pinnacle Management Company were not returned.

When tenant Amanda Trees, an actress, came out of her apartment at 10 Columbia Place to walk her cocker spaniel, Peri, her jaw dropped.

"They're destroying it," she wrenched it," said Trees, who was born in the building, and moved back there in 1981. "They're not just doing a survey," she added.

A neighbor from the sixth floor yelled out of the window, "What the hell's going on?" but was drowned out by the rumbling and hammering, and constant buzz of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

According to a Department of Buildings spokesman, the buildings at 24-30 Joralemon St. were not authorized to do major work. But he added, "Test borings don't need permits."

"They have no permits right now for anything — for any kind of excavation work we'd need to issue a permit," said Kenneth

Lazar, a community liaison for the Department of Buildings.

Long before the recent excavation began, the buildings, which were the result of Brooklyn philanthropist and businessman Alfred T. White's initiative to offer innovative low-income housing in 1930, were in a shabby state, and despite a work permit, issued by the landmarks commission on Sept. 11, 1990

announced that in Sept. 13 of this year, to replace interior stairways with similar slate stairs, the buildings have accrued violations as tenants noted peeling paint and loose tiles.

But despite their current state, the complex on the southeast corner of Joralemon Street and Columbia Place was once a grandiose offering to the working class that reached to the waterfront. The five adjacent buildings used to be one, guided by White's humanitarian sensibilities.

Before the complex was annexed by the city's redesign of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in 1954, it had a mammoth open courtyard inside the conjoined buildings, which tenants could access by way of catwalk-like ramps from their garden-facing floors, and attend outdoor weekly concerts, provided by White. All the rooms were cross-ventilated, and designed to allow light in on both sides.

Lazar noted there was a disapproval of an application, filed in 2001, when previous owners had sought to relocate a parking lot they'd built over a backyard with neither approval from the city Landmarks Preservation Commission nor the state agency that oversees the buildings' rent-stabilized units, the Department of Housing and Community Renewal.

Officials with DHCR subsequently ordered the landscaped grass, rose garden and a water fountain that parking lot had replaced be restored and issued rent reductions to complaining tenants in the interim. Those changes, which paved a substantial portion of the backyard, leaving only an island of landscaped (and unkempt) grass, were made in 1991. The backyard still has not been restored.

Weiner purchased the property for \$16.5 million in late 2002, and inherited a work order that had been approved by the landmarks commission allowing contextually identical repairs.

Those were abandoned in 2003, according to complaints filed with DHCR.

A Landmarks Preservation Commission spokeswoman said there has been no application for major work to any of the buildings in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District in more than 13 years.

Diane Jackier, director of Community and Government Affairs with the Landmarks Preservation Commission, said any plans for exterior changes to a building in a historic district must be filed prior to commencing work.

Workers begin excavation outside 30 Joralemon St. in Heights Historic District on Oct. 20.

"We can issue a stop-work order" if they investigate work being done without a permit, Jackier said. "We issue a work order, and they can remedy the situation and obtain a permit," she added.

After tenants reported their fears of illegal work to the landmarks commission, Jackier said, an investigation was commenced.

Meanwhile, tenants association president David Marck said he hopes the digging is for something more useful than parking.

"I would tend to think they'd be doing the soil samples and all to correct the drainage problems," he said. Trees disagreed.

"I think they're just calling it testing because it's more palatable," she said.

Continued from page 1

Newsday. He noted that those coming from the Big Island make up 60 to 65 percent of all new home purchases.

And, according to Corcoran's neighborhood reports, the Kennedy-Schlossberg kids would fit right in, relocating to an area that boasts 78 percent white-collar job employment, with 41 percent of the population having college degrees.

While Park Slope's pristine brownstones and chic boutiques often lend themselves to comparisons with the Upper West Side, the neighborhood is already a veritable Camelot for those who live there.

And Kennedy's family won't be the first of the ultra-famous to shuffle the sidewalks of the Slope's breezy tree-lined streets.

Actor Steve Buscemi has a place in the 'hood. So does John Turturro. And actress Jennifer Connelly and husband Paul Bettany have nested there as well, all of whom are more likely to be stopped on the street for being recognized than the somewhat low-profile Caroline Kennedy.

And for those who just don't care, it won't make a wit of difference. "I haven't heard a thing about that," said Ginny Hartford, who was busy running Aunt Suzie's restaurant Thursday evening. "Well, they got the big brownstones over here, that's why," she said before turning back to the bustling diners.

Continued from page 15

Despite the high-level Forest City Ratner official fielding questions at the Land Use committee hearing, several board members were only more incited after he left.

When discussion turned to the possibility of voting on a motion to hold off on any CBA negotiations until the board was supplied with further information, chairman Augustus greiv livid.

"If Jim Stuckey says it is a state process, it is a state process," Augustus affirmed.

But Kenn Lowy, who had drafted wording of a motion for the traffic committee the night before, asked to make a motion at the Land Use meeting.

"Until this board and the community are given all the information on this proposed project, including public hearings and information on public money being spent on the project, we should not endorse, comment or participate in the proposed CBA," he read from his motion.

Members of the Traffic-Transportation committee, which was the first group to take a vote after the CBA draft was released on Oct. 13, voted in favor of the "no-comment" motion 10-1 with two abstentions. The no vote was cast by Jon Quint, an attorney, who argued that legal ground would be lost if the board didn't participate now.

But the Land Use committee had a longer, more contentious battle, as Augustus grew convinced the ratification was part of a conspiracy against the project itself, even by longstanding board members.

"This thing was circulated before I even called this meeting to order, at 6:15 pm," the committee chair said. "They call it political machinations, political games. I'm not used to short-circuiting this process."

And though he tried to prolong the vote on the motion, first by refusing to act on the vote when it was first moved, immediately following Stuckey's departure, and then again following public discussion, the committee voted 7-4 in favor of the "no-comment" motion.

The only other CB2 committee that met within the timeframe before comments were due was the parks committee, which neither came to a conclusion nor offered any suggestions on the CBA draft. Sallie Nixon, a CB2 office staffer, said no other committees would be meeting on the CBA before the deadline.

"They aren't having any special meetings," she said, but suggested crossover members who were part of more than one committee would have a chance to review it.

Though Forest City Ratner's CBA is anticipated for completion in just a week's time, what role the boards will have in its development remains unclear.

Stuckey ventured his doubt of the board's legal authority to sign a document. The chairs have sat in on agreements, hence "participated," he said, and may continue to do so until their monthly meeting, in which case board members who fear having their power "co-opted" may have already decided out.

Meanwhile, Ratner's group continues to meet twice weekly to develop the CBA.

"Nothing's going to happen until the whole board votes on it," said Nixon, which would be after the Ratner deadline.

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